



EX LIBRIS



HARRY W.  
BASS, JR.





UNITED STATES MEDALS RARE BOOK NUMBER.



**GEORGE WASHINGTON  
INAUGURAL  
BUTTONS & MEDAETS  
1789 & 1793**

By

**J. HAROLD COBB C.P.A.**

PRIVATE PRINTING  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED  
1963



**ADDITIONAL FACTS  
ON  
GEORGE WASHINGTON  
INAUGURAL  
BUTTONS & MEDAETS  
1789 & 1793**

**1964**

Compliments Of  
**J. Harold Cobb C.P.A.**  
A. P. I. C. No. 201

**PRIVATE PRINTING  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**



## SUPPLEMENTARY DATA — PAGE 11

### *Additional Photographic references:*

- 1a N — September 1953
- 4 N — September 1953
- 5b New York Historical Society  
Quarterly Vol. IX No. 4 p. 124
- 5d "American Antiques" February 1948
- 6 "American Antiques" February 1948
- 16 N — November 1958
- 17d J B — September 1952
- 17g J 872
- 19 "Hobbies" November 1944

## SUPPLEMENTARY DATA — PAGE 12

No.	Add to No. of specimens verified as to location	Subtract from speci- mens not verified
1	1	
1a	1	
4	6	6
5 - 5c	12	12
9	16	16
10	5	
11	1	
12	1	1
13	3	
17a & b	1	
17c to 17m	8	7
19	1	
22 to 22g	1	1
22h	1	
23	5	4
30	2	

## SUPPLEMENTARY DATA — PAGE 13

### *Changes & additions in location*

No.	<i>In Collection of:</i>
1	Helen Richmond, Acton, Mass.
1a	add Author
9b	<del>From A. Carlson to M. MacFarland, Westfield, Mass.</del>
17c	add A. H. Albert
19	add Author
21	add J. Doyle DeWitt
22f	add J. Doyle DeWitt
30	add Ferdinand W. O'Brien

## SUPPLEMENTARY DATA — PAGE 14

### *Additional Noted Sales Prices*

#### No.

4	Dated Eagle	1963	\$110.00
4	Dated Eagle	1963	125.00
5	G W in Oval	1964	100.00
5a	G W in Oval	1964	125.00
5c	G W in Oval	1963	75.00
9	Linked States	1963	95.00
9	Linked States	1963	100.00
9	Linked States	1964	100.00
17a	Eagle & Star	1964	200.00
17d	Eagle & Star	1964	150.00
17e	Eagle & Star	1963	100.00
23	Success to the U.S.	1958	65.00
23a	Success to the U.S.	1961	25.00
23d	Success to the U.S.	1958	18.00

## SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

### *Notes on Patterns*

#### No. 1 *Liberty Cap on Pole*

Helen Richmond of Acton, Mass. owns a second specimen, this was reported obtained from a button dealer in Florida in March, 1963.

Now — "two specimens known"

#### No. 1a. *Add to your list the Liberty Cap, G W, and Eagle*

This button is now in the collection of the author. This pattern was pictured in the National Button Bulletin of September 1953. (Electros of this pattern exist having been made for a Rochester, N. Y. coin collector.)

#### No. 2 *Profile of Washington & 1789*

Letter received from button collector in San Francisco, Calif. stating that she had a second specimen of this pattern. This button was requested for examination but sadly, before the button could be sent, the owner was struck by a car and killed. The disposition of this button is unknown to date.

#### No. 5 *G W in Oval (five in bag)*

The bag of five is still intact having been inherited by the son of the finder and is currently being displayed at various antique shows with a price tag of \$1,000.00.

A No. 5d type without the date incised was acquired with the record that it was found years ago while sweeping out a discarded railroad box car on a railroad siding in Littleton, N. H.

The Historical Society of Clinton, Conn. reported through a newspaper story with picture, an additional specimen of the G W in Oval pattern. (See New Haven Register July 27, 1963)

A photostat of a page from the February 1948 issue of the American Antiques was submitted by collector Joseph Brown of Wisconsin which pictures Cobb No. 5d; 7; and 19.

The original photograph of the Maxwell group of No. 9 *Linked States* described on page 23 is now in the possession of the author, having been obtained through the courtesy of L. J. Caron of Plymouth, Mass. who was handling a part of the Horace M. Grant collection of Historical items. (See story in April 1964 issue of the A.P.I.C. "Keynoter")

#### No. 9 *Linked States.*

A. H. Albert of Hightstown, N. J. and J. Doyle DeWitt of Hartford, Conn. have acquired interesting G W *Linked States* Border button HUBS (I have seen both of these). For story of the Albert hub see the May 1964 issue of the National Button Bulletin, pages 108 and 109. The legend "Long Live the President" which encircles the initials G W is missing on both these hubs. Ferdinand W. O'Brien of Midlothian, Illinois has a strike on an oblong piece of metal from the DeWitt hub.

#### No. 12 "Elder" Stars & Flowers

A collector in Mahwah, N. J. has a specimen with 13 stars, found in an antique shop and a collector in Oley, Pa. has one also with 13 stars and flowers obtained from a dealer in Reading, Pa. some years ago.

#### No. 13 Small Wreath

A specimen is reported in a collection said to have been found, badly corroded, while hunting Indian artifacts in a field in Paradise, New Jersey in September, 1952.

#### No. 17 Small Size Eagle & Star — Copper

A thirteenth specimen of the type found on the breeches, was acquired by an Old Westbury, Long Island collector. It was found in the stock of a Vermont antique dealer at a N. Y. State Button Show in 1963.

It is an excavated specimen, shank still intact, very thin from wear, corrosion and subsequent buffing, but still very good looking. There are 37 impressions in the border. (See Just Buttons magazine for January 1964 for story on this find.)

No. 19 *The Majesty of the People*

Change your record on this pattern to TWO specimens known.

A second specimen was acquired by your author in August 1964.

As early as August 1957 it was rumored that a second specimen of this pattern did exist, but that the owner did not wish it publicized. At the death of this collector it passed through several hands and was finally acquired by your author at the time of the A.P.I.C. Convention at Hartford, Conn. It is from a Pennsylvania collection.

(See Albert's Washington Historical Buttons, pages 34, 35 and 47 with reference to this pattern.) (See Johnson's drawing #885 — page 175.)

No. 22b *Die Strike Missing*

A counterstamped specimen bearing only the strike of "Long Live the President" (No initials "G W" appear thereon) was acquired by your author. This is struck on a planchet of reused metal and the reverse bears the initials E A C II. It is 34 mm in size.

No. 23c *"Success to the United States"*

A small size silvered specimen is owned by Dr. George Fuld of Akron, Ohio. It is reported to be from the Brand Collection.

No. 30 *Hand-Engraved Foliated Script G W*

One specimen of this pattern had been found in Mass. In May 1964 a second specimen, identical in workmanship was found in Florida, a beautiful copper colonial type planchet. One specimen is in the collection of Ferdinand W. O'Brien of Midlothian, Illinois and the second is in the author's collection.

#### GENERAL NOTES ON G Ws

Articles on G Ws are to be found in

American Antiques, February 1948 pp 6, 7, & 13

Hobbies, November 1944 p. 35

Washington Post, October 5, 1962

Coin World, November 9, 1962

N. Y. World-Telegram & Sun, August 9, 1963

Numismatist, December 1924 p. 733

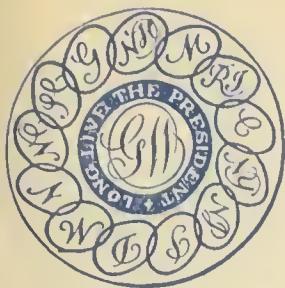
---

In volume two — John Adams by Page Smith page 939 we read "Washington had established the precedent of a Presidential Party on the Fourth of July for the members of Congress, the "gentlemen" of the city, the Governor and the officers and men of the "militia companies".

(Perhaps this was the main occasion on these buttons to honor the President were worn each year of his Presidency.)







J. HAROLD COBB

COLLECTOR OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BUTTONS

141 PELHAM AVENUE HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

06518

Dr. George Tued  
1756 Factory Ave  
Los Angeles 13, Calif.

Dear Dr. Tued:

I am pleased to send you, with my compliments, a copy of my book on GW's the results of twelve years of collecting and research. I hope you will like this for your library.

Please acknowledge receipt of same.

This is a very limited edition, not for sale but distributed to those friends who have shown interest in my collecting over the years.

Promiscuously,  
J. Harold Cobb

July 29, 1963



## FOREWORD

A collector who shall remain nameless wrote in 1953 as follows:

"Economically, each of us acts like a Robinson Crusoe on his own little island of interest — we fail to arouse the interest of new people and thus encourage competition for ourselves. Each guards his own particular island of interest. Yet, unless such competition is encouraged, who will appreciate his collection? Who will know anything of the vast amount of information one has acquired about the subject he collects and each of the pieces in his collection? Usually the collector dies with his knowledge lost. This is perhaps the most serious loss of all — this loss of knowledge — because often the collector's sources of knowledge are also dead."

This is the basic reason for this compilation of facts, presented herein.

July 29, 1963

J. H. COBB  
*J. H. Cobb*



## INTRODUCTION:

### George Washington Inaugural Buttons and Medalets.

1789 & 1793

This check list of metallic material relating to George Washington, our first President, who was born in 1732 and died in 1799, contains approximately seventy major and minor varieties, all of which are known to the compiler either through specimens in his own collection or in collections of others, or from photographs of items in Museum collections.

No attempt has been made to include in this list varieties not supported by specimens examined or photographs examined.

Variations have been considered by the compiler to represent a difference in border impressions, metal content, whether intentional or unintentional, however minute.

Your compiler has inspected over two hundred specimens of Washington Inaugurals, often referred to as "G W's". Few of the buttons herein listed have been described from any but good to very fine specimens.

It is thought that the data provided should be sufficient to distinguish every variety mentioned and permit the most rapid cross reference to photographs thereof already published. Any variation in millimeter diameter of specimens may be due to wear.

It is assumed that the collector and student of these buttons will be familiar with one or more of the standard works on G W buttons. These include:

"Uniform Buttons" by David F. Johnson 1948 pp. 172-175 incl.  
"Washington Historical Buttons" by A. H. Albert 1949 pp. 39 to 49.  
"A Century of Campaign Buttons 1789-1889" by J. Doyle DeWitt 1959 pp. 1 to 6 inclusive.

Some of these authorities contain valuable particulars explanatory of the designs of the buttons, not repeated herein.

The principal collections in the United States, known to the author, are those of A. H. Albert of Hightstown, New Jersey; J. Doyle DeWitt of Hartford, Conn.; Arthur and Ruth Wilson of Lexington, Mass.; Winthrop and Helen Richmond of Acton, Mass.; L. Kirk Mosler of Philadelphia, Pa.; Waterbury Companies Inc. Museum, Waterbury, Conn.; Lightner Museum, St. Augustine, Florida and J. H. Cobb, Hamden, Conn.

Needless to say the compiler will feel most grateful to receive photographs or even rubbings of varieties not apparently included in this list, or to inspect original specimens kindly submitted to him.

It is hoped that the facts connected with the various patterns presented herein for your enjoyment will fill a void left by other references to these historic buttons.



## THE FIRST INAUGURAL APRIL 30, 1789

George Washington's first inaugural was postponed for various reasons from March 4th to April 30, 1789 when the inaugural ceremonies were observed in Federal Hall in the City of New York.

When Washington was inaugurated in 1789 no inaugural commemorative medals were issued — however a number of buttons commemorating the occasion were made and sold. Today, the seventy or so known varieties of Washington Inaugural buttons are in great demand by collectors of political buttons and medals, Washington medals, and button collectors, alike. Only four or five patterns of these buttons are commonly met with by collectors.

In 1950 a total of sixty-nine specimens with forty owners were known. Today this knowledge has increased to three hundred and sixteen specimens with sixty-one owners. It has been reported that an additional ninety-five specimens exist in "general" button collections but this has been impossible to verify.

As to patterns discovered Philadelphia, Pa. has given us nine; Connecticut six; Massachusetts four; New York State two; Virginia one and California one. From these original finds variations and like specimens have been found throughout the New England states, Illinois, Washington State, and even Canada. They have been found in plowing fields, excavating for construction, in tearing down old houses, in cutting down an old tree, in old trunks, in jewelry boxes in estates, in machine drawers, in cellar rubbish, and one was recently found on a beach by a shell enthusiast. They are often found in old-time coin collections.



For over eighty years collectors and students of these buttons have been searching for authenticated data, advancing many theories, debating various theories, recording penciled notations found with specimens preserved, with inherited specimens, examining old newspapers of Washington's time for advertising of the availability of these buttons, carefully scrutinizing artists drawings of the period for picturization of buttons on their garments, etc. To date little factual has been forthcoming. The reason for this is that these buttons were considered at that time in the same category as we consider a fine pair of cuff-links and a tie pin today, accessories for the well-groomed gentleman of that period and not considered as unusual possessions requiring historic reference or picturization. They were not sewed on the great coats but were worn by inserting the shank through a button-hole and a tape, knotted at the top and bottom, held them in place. Like our cuff-links, at the end of the day they were removed and carefully preserved for the next wearing. They were expensive and not easily replaced if lost.

It is probable that five of the large size G W s in all but the Eagle and Star pattern were worn on a coat, eight being the accepted number for the Eagle and Star pattern. This has been borne out by the latter being found in places associated with those who served under General Washington, who naturally "dressed up" in uniform, while the other patterns have been found many times in the estates of descendants of prominent citizens of Washington's day who wore "splendored" coats for glamorous occasions such as weddings, dinners, balls and Presidential entertainment of that era.

The small size Eagle & Star have been positively connected with the breeches of that period, while the medium size have been attributed to the capes worn to these affairs.

In two instances I have knowledge of eight Eagle & Star pattern buttons being found preserved together and the G W in Oval, Linked States and Plain G W patterns have been found in homespun bags containing five specimens. Twelve of the small size Eagle & Star were found on an original pair of breeches of the period. In most all cases the additional buttons required were plain except in the case of the breeches mentioned where the three additional buttons were Continental Navy with an anchor. These were firmly sewed on with homespun linen tape.

As the "well-to-do" in each community were in the minority, this accounts for the limited number of specimens preserved and also for the desire to preserve any in the first place. Individuality in taste accounts for the various patterns and the fact that the same pattern was made by more than one craftsman accounts for the variations in die strikes in border, etc.



## WHERE MADE?

No specimens have ever been offered as being found in either England or France indicating that they could and probably were made in Colonial States that made copper "hardware". It is probable that some of the planchets or blanks used were English in origin due to the scarcity of copper in the colonial states.

Many were probably made by the "coin-makers" of the period as we do find with reference to dies the advertised wording "Details of legend, date, etc., being added to suit the fancy of the artist and the **POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TIME AND COUNTRY**".

Pennsylvania obtained their copper items from England, North Carolina from Switzerland and South Carolina from London. There were no copper coining businesses recorded in the states of Pennsylvania, North or South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Delaware or New Hampshire.

Copper "hardware" was made in the states of New Jersey, Vermont and Connecticut during the years 1785 to 1789.

The various differences in shade, weight, metal content, strikes, borders and the obvious deterioration of dies used discredit any assumption of quantity shipments of imported product for public consumption.

The copper sources were few in number—Machin's Mills, Orange Lake, New Grange-Ulster county (now City of Newburgh, New York State) procured metal by smelting old brass cannon and mortars, relics of the Revolution. The zinc being parted from the brass by the action of the furnace, the copper which came through the fire was worked into shape for making planchets or blanks.

Wetherle & Co., Kirby Street, Boston, Mass. obtained metal from the smelting of old brass racks from machines for boring cannon from the old cannon factory at Bridgewater.

Broome & Platt, Morris Cove and Westville, Conn. and Mark Leavenworth, New Haven, Conn. obtained metal from John Higley at Granby-Simsbury copper mines. Walter Mould, New Jersey obtained metal from Machin & Co.

The coining of planchets or blanks was done at:

Thomas Machin & Co., New Grange, New York State.

Harmon & Buel, Town of Rupert, Vermont.

Weatherlee & Co., Boston, Mass.

Broome & Platt, Conn.

Walter Mould, New Jersey (furnished blanks for the coiners of Vermont and Connecticut as well, 1789).

The dies were made of steel and the rollers of wrought iron.



Color variations noted on G Ws —

Brass — blue, verd antique, green and red.

Bronze — rich gold, blue, green, red, black and brown.

Copper — pure copper color.

It is interesting to note that border impressions and punchmarks similar to those found on G Ws can be found on the "copper colonials" of the period. The writer has seen those similar to the Eagle & Star pattern, the Linked States with three indentations between links at border, the Rayed pattern and the Eagle & Sun 18b border.



## NOTES ON PATTERNS



## SPECIMENS

### Class 1 Hand-engraved Obverse Blank Reverse

No.	Est. Rarity	Obv. Description	Details	MM.
1	RRR	Liberty Cap on Pole 1789	Copper	34
2	RRR	Profile with Date 1789	Bronze	34
3	RRR	Pyramid of 13 Stars 1789	Brass	34

### Class 2 Authenticated First Inaugural Die—Strike Obv. Blank Rev.

✓4	C	Dated Eagle	Brass	34
4a	R	Dated Eagle	Copper	34
5	C	G W in Oval—narrow spacing	Copper	34
5a	C	G W in Oval—medium spacing	Copper	34
5b	R	G W in Oval—wide spacing	Copper	34
5c	C	G W in Oval—“Emilio”	Copper	34.5
5d	RRR	G W in Oval—with date incised 30 April 1789	Copper	34
5e	RRR	G W in Oval—with no legend above	Brass	28
6	RRR	Rayed	Copper	32
7	RRR	Sunburst—23 pyramidal flames	Brass	31
7a	RRR	Sunburst—24 pyramidal flames	Brass	31
8	RR	Grant—33 punch-marks	Copper	33
8a	RRR	Grant—32 punch-marks wide spaced rays	Copper	33
8b	RRR	Grant—32 punch-marks close-spaced rays	Copper	33
8c	RRR	Grant—31 punch-marks close-spaced rays	Copper	33



✓9	C	Linked States	Brass	34
9a	R	Linked States—design shows through back	Brass	34
9b	RRR	Linked States—3 ind. between links at border	Brass	34
9c	RR	Linked States—gold color	Brass	34
9d	C	Linked States	Copper	34
9e	RR	Linked States—Thick planchet	Copper	34
9f	RRR	Linked States—re-engraved 1776	Copper	34
10	C	Script G W	Brass	35
10a	R	Script G W—design shows through back	Brass	35
10b	RRR	Script G W	Copper	35
11	R	Plain G W	Brass	36.5
11a	R	Plain G W—with narrow W	Brass	36.5
12	R	Elder 13 Star, gold color	Brass	34
12a	R	Elder 14 Star, gold color	Brass	34
12b	R	Elder 15 Star, gold color	Brass	34
13	R	Small Wreath	Brass	15
13a	R	Small Wreath	Copper	15
14	R	Wreath & Star	Copper	20
15	RRR	15 Star (Darby)	Brass	15
16	RRR	15 Star	Brass	20



17	RRR	Eagle & Star, 37 imp. in border	Brass	18
17a	RR	Eagle & Star, 37 imp. in border	Copper	18
17b	RR	Eagle & Star, 36 imp. in border	Copper	18
17c	RRR	Eagle & Star, 49 imp. in border	Brass	34.8
17d	RR	Eagle & Star, 54 imp. in border	Brass	34.8
17e	R	Eagle & Star, 54 imp. in border	Bronze	34.8
17f	RRR	Eagle & Star, 54 imp. in border	Copper	34.8
17g	C	Eagle & Star, 63 imp. in border	Brass	34.8
17h	C	Eagle & Star, 63 imp. in border design shows through	Brass	34.8
17i	C	Eagle & Star, 63 imp. in border	Bronze	34.8
✓17j	C	Eagle & Star, 63 imp. in border	Copper	34.8
17k	RRR	Eagle & Star, 72 imp. in border	Copper	34.8
17l	R	Eagle & Star, No border	Brass	30
17m	R	Eagle & Star, No border	Brass	20
18	RRR	Eagle & Sun—21 punch-marks in border	Copper	34
18a	RRR	Eagle & Sun—24 punch-marks in border	Brass	34
18b	RRR	Eagle & Sun—27 punch-marks in border	Brass	34
18c	RRR	Eagle & Sun—27 punch-marks in border, design shows through	Brass	34
19	RRR	Majesty of the People	Brass	31
20	RRR	Pater Patriae—pewter back	Copper face	25
20a	RRR	Pater Patriae—bone back, catgut shank	Copper face	25
21	RRR	Unity Prosperity Independence	Brass	34



22	R	Counterstamp "Long Live the President G W" —on Conn. colonial cent	Copper	29
22a	R	Counterstamp "Long Live the President G W" —on English shilling	Copper	25
22b	R	Counterstamp "Long Live the President G W" —on English 2 pence	Copper	34
22c	R	Counterstamp "Long Live the President G W" —on octagonal planchet	Copper	27
22d	R	Counterstamp "Long Live the President G W" —with border of dots	Brass	29
22e	R	Counterstamp "Long Live the President G W" —on Conn. colonial cent	Copper	29
22f	R	Counterstamp "Long Live the President G W" —on Vermont colonial cent	Copper	29
✓22g	R	Counterstamp "Long Live the President G W" —on 8 reale coin (Mexico City Mint)	No shank	

**Unauthenticated:**

24	G W in Oval (See J.B.—August 1944—page 5)	Pewter	34
25	Linked States	Pewter	34

**Class 3 Second Inaugural Medalets c1793**

✓23	C	Success to the United States—large	Silvered
✓23a	C	Success to the United States—large	Brass
✓23b	C	Success to the United States—small	Brass

Rarity Code — C—Scarce    R—Rare    RR—Extra Rare    RRR—Ultra Rare



## LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

J indicates Johnson's "Uniform Buttons" 1948; WHB indicates Albert's "Washington Historical Buttons" 1949; D indicates DeWitt's "A Century of Campaign Buttons 1789-1889", 1959; N indicates National Button Bulletin and JB indicates "Just Buttons" magazine.

1. see Plate
2. WHB No. 1
3. N—Vol. 9, No. 3, May 1950
4. J #873, WHB No. 2, D No. GW1789-4
5. J #869, WHB No. 3
- 5a. D—GW1789-7
- 5b.
- 5c. J #870, WHB No. 4
- 5d. WHB No. 5
- 5e. WHB No. 6
6. WHB No. 9, J #877
7. WHB No. 7, J #875
- 7a.
8. N—Jan. 1961, WHB No. 8, J #878
- 8a. N—Jan. 1961
- 8b. N—Jan. 1961
- 8c. N—Jan. 1952
9. WHB No. 10, J #871, D 1789-9
- 9b. Mass. State Bulletin 1950-1, Vol. 3, No. 3, page 23
- 9f N—Vol. 9, No. 3, May 1950
10. WHB No. 11, J #874, D 1789-2
11. WHB No. 12, J #876
12. WHB No. 13, N—Vol. 9, No. 3, May 1950
13. WHB No. 14, J #879
14. WHB No. 15, J #880
15. WHB No. 16, J #881
16. *N—November 1958*
17. WHB No. 17
- 17a. & b. JB April 1961
- 17d. WHB No. 19
- 17g. WHB No. 18, D 1789-3
- 17j. WHB No. 20
18. WHB No. 21
- 18c. JB April 1953, CHB Supl. #1, 3035A
19. WHB No. 25, J #885
20. WHB No. 27
- 20a. WHB No. 26
21. J #905
- 22, 22a, 22b, 22c, 22d, 22e, 22f, N—Vol. 9, No. 3, May 1950
- 22g. Journal of TAMS, December 1962
- 23a. D 1789-1 *1792-1*
- 23b. D 1789-2 *1792-3*



No.	Pattern	No. of specimens verified as to location	Additional specimens not verified
1	Liberty Cap on Pole 1789 *	1	
2	Smithsonian 1789 *	1	
3	Pyramid of 13 Stars 1789 *	1	
✓4	Dated Eagle *	26	12
4a	Dated Eagle	2	
5 to 5c	G W in Oval *	76	31
5d	G W in Oval	1	
5e	G W in Oval	1	
6	Rayed *	3	
7	Sunburst—23 *	2	
7a	Sunburst—24	1	
8	Grant *	4	
✓9	Linked States *	55	25
9b	Linked States	2	
10	Script G W *	20	
11	Plain G W *	8	
12	Elder *	4	1
13	Small Wreath *	5	
14	Wreath & Star *	4	
15	Darby 15mm *	1	
16	15 Star 20mm *	2	
17	Eagle & Star	1	
✓17a & b	Eagle & Star *	12	
✓17c to m	Eagle & Star	55	24
18	Eagle & Sun *	5	
19	Majesty	1	
✓20-20a	Pater Patriae *	4	1
21	Unity Prosperity Ind. *	3	
✓22-22g	Counterstamped *	9	3
23	Second Inaug. Medalets	6	1



## Location of Seldom Seen Specimens

In collection of:

No.	Collection of:
1	Author
2	Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.
3	Author
5d	Author
5e	Author
6	A & R Wilson, Lexington, Mass.; I. Pfeifer, Andover, Conn.; Author
7	A & R Wilson, Lexington, Mass.; Author
7a	Author
8, 8a, 8b	Author
8c	Mrs. F. Stuart Scheetz, Lansdale, Pa.
9b	Alice Carlson.; Author
9f	J. J. Goldberg, St. Louis, Mo.
11	A. H. Albert, Hightstown, N. J.; J. D. DeWitt, Hartford, Conn.; E. Alling, Hamden, Conn.; Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.; Author; Rutgers University professor.
11a	Author
15	Author
16	Author; A. H. Albert, Hightstown, N. J.
17	Author
18	Author
18a	A. H. Albert, Hightstown, N. J.
18b	Author
18c	Author
19	Lightner Museum, St. Augustine, Fla.
21	A. H. Albert, Hightstown, N. J.; Author
22c	Sally Luscomb, Southington, Conn., Lightner Museum; Author
22d	Author
22g	Dr. George Fuld, Baltimore, Md.



## Notes on Values

	Sale in	Recorded Sales Prices Realized
#4 Dated Eagle	1914	1.50
#4 Dated Eagle	1956	100.00
#4 Dated Eagle	1963	110.00
#5 G W in Oval	1914	1.50
#5 G W in Oval	1955	60.00
#5 G W in Oval	1956	75.00
#5 G W in Oval	1957	85.00
#5 G W in Oval	1962	220.00
#5c Emilio G W in Oval	1954	75.00
#5c Emilio G W in Oval	1962	440.00
#9 Linked States	1914	3.75
#9 Linked States	1956	75.00
#9 Linked States	1963	75.00
#17d Eagle & Star, large	1959	85.00
#17d Eagle & Star, large	1963	100.00
#17a Eagle & Star, small copper	1961	100.00
#10 Script G W	1956	75.00

Patterns and variations not listed above were priced at values agreed upon by parties involved in sales by private treaty and are not considered indicative of current values.



## NOTES ON PATTERNS

### No. 1. Liberty Cap on Pole 1789

One specimen known.

Comment of authorities:

A. H. Albert — “Probably the only one known like it. In a class with the ‘Profile with date (Smithsonian) WHB No. 1 in the Smithsonian Institute collection.’”

David F. Johnson — “It must be of political or patriotic significance.”

W. F. Sunday — “A choice specimen, seem to recall a member of the ‘Buttonists’ had it at one time. I would venture to say it was worn at the first inaugural.”

J. Doyle DeWitt — “I really think it is a tremendous item.”

The Liberty Cap on Pole was used on the paper “notes” of Georgia. Adopted by the Pennsylvania Council of Safety in 1776 on their seal provided for the use of the Board. Probably worn by a member of the Committee of Safety of Philadelphia, Pa.



**No. 2. Profile of Washington 1789**  
**(Smithsonian)**  
**Legend "Remember March Fourth 1789"**

One specimen known.

This button was written up in the New York Sun in 1946. Was in collection of Adam Eckfeldt of Philadelphia, Pa. who started the U. S. Mint Cabinet collection in 1838.



**No. 3. Pyramid of Thirteen Stars, "G W" and  
"Long Live the President"**

All parts of the design are impressed-plain border.

One specimen known.

Found in collection acquired by Warren P. Ruth of Philadelphia,  
Pa. in 1950.



#### - No. 4. Dated Eagle

Adam Eckfeldt of Philadelphia had one in his collection in 1792-1838.

The earliest publicity found was in a coin sale of 1859.

One was listed in a Chapman coin sale in 1914.

Specimen recently in news upon presentation to the Smithsonian collection of Political Americana by gift of Washington attorney. (Coin World, Nov. 1962.) This was originally from New York State. Shank had been removed and filed smooth for coin cabinet.

Specimen sold in York, Pa. auction in 1963 brought \$110.00.

Twenty-eight specimens are known as to location, with an additional twelve specimens reported, impossible of verification. These are usually found in brass, only two specimens in copper known to writer. Specimens examined show consistently wear in two areas — 1789 and Era.

Questionable "copies ?" seen with absence of dot after 1780 and tail feathers running down into letter M in March, usually in "brass with no sign of old age" and in "re-used metal".



## No. 5. G W in Oval

This pattern is found with variations in spacing between the G and W, the size of the ovals, and radial vs. horizontal ends of the ribbon or upper die.

One specimen has been found with the date 30 April 1789 incised thereon. This was originally found by Edythe M. Doe of Wakefield, Mass.

One specimen has been found with no upper die strike, the legend being omitted. This button is brass, and is not a cut-down specimen. It was originally from the Wm. Lanier Washington collection of Washingtonia (Westport, Conn.) sold in 1920. It was advertised in the New York American February 16, 1920 illustrated by a drawing. Mr. David Johnson has examined this specimen and pronounced it genuine.

The cataloging of the specimen in the Emilio collection (#1365 Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.) revealed that it had horizontal ends to the ribbon instead of the usual radial ends. This resulted in the term "Emilio" being applied to this variation. (No. 5c.)

No. 5a — became known as the "Calver" variation from its inclusion in the Calver collection written up in the New York Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. IX, No. 4, January 1926.

Five specimens of G W in Oval were found together in a bag in Springfield, Mass. (See Albert's "Washington Historical Buttons", page 63 for picture). A recent offering of these was priced at \$1,000.00.

In a recent sale of the coin collection of the late Howard D. Egolf of Pennsylvania, held in New York City (Lot 54), a G W in Oval — general die brought \$220.00 and (Lot 55) an "Emilio" brought \$440.00 (N.B.B., July 1961).



## No. 6. Rayed Pattern

Only three specimens of this pattern are known.

In 1914 the catalog of the George M. Parsons collection of coins, sold by S. H. Chapman of Philadelphia, described Lot #585 as follows:

"Washington Button — G W in script in center — around 'Long Live the President'. Outside of this is a glory of rays and a plain band of stars, perfect shank" — "the only one I have seen". Brought \$4.50. (The Chapmans were in business over fifty years and handled the finest collections at auction.)

The Parsons collection was very rich in colonial coins, Washington tokens and medals, and included four Inaugural buttons — G W in Oval, realized \$1.50; Linked States realized \$3.75; Dated Eagle realized \$1.50 (no shank) and the Rayed pattern described above, realized \$4.50.



### No. 7. Sunburst

Up to September 1962, only two specimens of this pattern were known, both with 23 pyramidal flames. One is said to be from the Col. Stevens, Bristol, Rhode Island, passing to the Servis collection, Melrose, Mass., now owned by a Lexington, Mass. collector. The other is said to be from a Cortland, N. Y. collection.

In September 1962 a specimen with 24 pyramidal flames, a new variation, was found in a jewelry box in a Connecticut estate.



#### No. 8. Grant

This pattern has been found in four variations in die strikes; close-spaced, medium spaced, and wide-spaced rays. These have 31, 32, and 33 punch-marks in border.

The most unusual of these is a proof specimen found in Waterbury, Conn. in 1959. It was preserved in an old metal salve box with a faded thin white ribbon of Masonic significance.

Research revealed that this button was possibly from a wedding coat of 1796. In other instances G W buttons have been identified with wedding coats of the period.

David F. Johnson rates this "find" as the highspot of button collecting.



## No. 9. Linked States

This pattern is probably the best known.

One interesting group of five were in the collection of a Miss Maxwell of Rockwell, Conn. (1876). They were auctioned in New York in 1944 — Lot #511, and purchased by a party who kept one specimen and sold to Grant's Hobby Shop of Providence, R. I. for \$100.00. These four were sold to four different parties at approximately \$40.00 each accompanied by a photostat copy of the original picture of the five buttons which stated that the five buttons were cut from a coat left at Washington's Headquarters at Newport, R. I.

It is difficult to find a specimen with the strike showing through the back. The rarest variation is the one with three touch-marks between the links at the border. Only two of this type have been found, both found in Connecticut. The story of one of these was published in the Mass. State Button Bulletin, 1950-51, Vol. 3, No. 3, page 23. This specimen had no shank when found.

The second was found, with original shank intact, in September of 1960, ten years later.

The Linked States pattern is known in varying colors, a beautiful greenish brass, in gold brass, in copper, and intermediate shades.



## No. 10. Script G W

Of the twenty specimens known only one has been found in copper, the rest being brass. The copper specimen is from the collection of F. C. C. Boyd of Ringoes, N. J.

One specimen is in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia among the George Washington relics.

A specimen was reported found in Virginia in 1825 and one was sold in a coin auction in 1882. A specimen was reported found in Windsor, Conn., in 1861 by a person excavating for a flagpole foundation. (Clark.)

This pattern is very similar to the seal of the Fredricksburg, Va. Masonic Lodge in lettering, design, and use of star surrounded by dots.



## No. 11. Plain G W

One specimen of this rare pattern is said to have been in the (Eliza Messerve 1893) Essex Institute, Salem, Mass. collection. One specimen is reported as having been dug up in a garden in Hightstown, N. J.

In the early 1940s an unusual find was made. Again the number five was the number of specimens contained in a handwoven linen bag, tied with a narrow tape, removed from a tree limb cut down in front of the library at Southampton, Mass.

The purchaser of this find relates this recollection:

"They took down a very old tree in front of the library and as one part fell, this small bundle fell out. It was of handwoven linen, tied with a very narrow tape and very dirty, but inside were five Plain G W buttons, three with shanks and two without, copper and in very good condition. It did not take long for collectors to want to acquire them from me."

The National Button Bulletin of May 1963 tells of the finding of a specimen by a shell collector on a beach at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina in 1962.



## No. 12. "Elder" 13 Star Pattern

The Elder pattern has been found with thirteen, fourteen, and fifteen stars and various number of flowers.

In February of 1947, Mrs. Thomas Elder, wife of the famous numismatist of New York City, wrote as follows:

"Mr. Elder has the oldest button and rarest. I believe from Washington's army in the Revolution. They were first made up of coins."

The United States Mint numismatic collection is said to contain a similar specimen. There were three of this type in the Ruth Find of 1950.

It is believed that the Ruth Find specimens were once owned by the University of Pennsylvania and possibly made by Charles Wilson Peale, artist, silversmith, watchmaker and engraver. In 1869, 262 lots from his Philadelphia Museum, established in 1794, were sold by Mason, cataloger of coins from the Peale Museum collection. Described were "tokens made of copper, occasionally gilded".



### No. 13. Small Wreath

It is possible that these specimens were designed to omit the G W during the second Presidency of Washington and were expected to be worn even into the Adams' administration.

### No. 14. Wreath & Star

The same applies to this pattern, these buttons were originally silvered. They were first reported in June 1944 and again in October of that year.

### No. 15. Darby 15 Star

An article entitled "Unlisted Inaugural Button Found in California" published in the National Button Bulletin for November 1947 tells of the finding of the only known 15mm specimen of this pattern.

### No. 16. 15 Star 20mm Size

Two specimens are known, one found in a collection sold in Chicago, Ill. in October 1958 and the second found in a New England collection in 1960.



### No. 17. Eagle & Star—Small Size

The small size of this pattern has now been found in both brass and copper. The one brass specimen known was found in a Meriden, Conn. button collection in the early 1940s. At first it was not recognized for its true status as no other had ever been heard of, however it was "identified" in May 1944. (See National Button Bulletin, July 1944, page 29 and January 1946, page 45.)

In January of 1961 twelve copper specimens were found on the original breeches, white, just publicized, having been found by Burdette G. Johnson, famous coin dealer of St. Louis, Mo. years earlier in a purchase of colonial items in Philadelphia, Pa. Eleven of these buttons were removed and quickly acquired by collectors, the twelfth button still attached to the breeches acquired by a Hartford, Conn. collector. (See story of this find in "Just Buttons" magazine, April 1961 issue.) Also see National Button Bulletin, May 1961, for article referring to these rare specimens.)



### No. 17. Eagle & Star—Large Size

There are variations in count of the border impressions, of 49, 54, 63, and 72. Also specimens with no border have been found in the 20mm and 30mm size blanks.

The 72 imp. is the rarest (the 49 is most unusual) and the 54 imp. seldom found. It is interesting to note that most of the known 54 imp. came originally from Philadelphia although in 1960 one specimen was excavated at the site of the old Bedell House, Staten Island. This pattern has repeatedly been found at places where those who once served under General Washington had at one time resided.



## No. 18. Eagle & Sun

The specimen with 21 punch-marks in the border was from the George Servis collection who collected at the era of Calver, Hart, Stevens and Emilio.

The specimens with 27 punch-marks have two different style borders, one similar to that of the 21 imp. specimen and a notched edge effect.

As to the 21 imp. the National Button Bulletin of 1947 first showed this type. Again in the N.B.B. of January 1951, this button is referred to, page 50, and in "Just Buttons", April 1953 issue, the "notched edge variety" is described by David F. Johnson.

One specimen of the Eagle & Sun was reported in 1947, found in a large collection of Indian trinkets and British uniform buttons — said to have been dug up from an Indian burial ground found on a farm along the Cowlitz River in the State of Washington.

\*September



### **No. 19. The Majesty**

This single known specimen reported is said to have been found in the Hart collection now in the Lightner Museum, St. Augustine, Fla. David Johnson in 1948 stated “—may or may not be an Inaugural”.



No. 20. Pater Patriae

Copper face-pewter back:

One seen in 1952 in Connecticut-family heirloom. (See "Just Buttons", September 1952.)

Two found in possession of family in New York State, family heirlooms since passed into hands of collectors. This was in 1957.

One specimen in collection of Dr. George Fuld of Baltimore, Md. Stated acquired about 1949.

Copper-face bone-back and catgut shank:

This specimen is subject to question and its present location is unknown. One only known of this construction. Was described as silver on copper face, the pewter back specimens show no sign of silver.



## No. 21. Unity Prosperity Independence

Three specimens known. One of these is definitely known to have originally come from an old Philadelphia family. Member of that family having moved to Canada it was discovered there by a Wisconsin collector.



**No. 22. "Counterstamped G W Long  
Live the President"**

This die strike has been applied to both Colonial and English coins, and to various metal planchets, both round and octagonal.

One strike, that on a 1794 8-reales piece of the Mexico City Mint is owned by Dr. Fuld of Baltimore, Md. who wrote "Although the buttons may have been issued for the inauguration of 1793, it seems likely that this unique counterstamp was probably struck several years after the official buttons were made." This piece is from the famous James Brock collection, previously the property of the University of Pennsylvania and acquired about 1950 when that collection was sold (Brock collection). (See Journal of T.A.M.S., December 1962).



**No. 23. Second Inaugural Medalets c1793**  
**(Washington Profile and Success to the United States)**

Engraver unknown but thought produced in this country.  
Very thin planchet.

Washington's head from Trumbell's portrait of 1790.

Harper's Encyclopedia in 1906 pictured one of these medalets  
and captioned it a "Liberty Cap Cent".

"Speaking of specimen coins struck at the Mint at Philadelphia,  
among the most rare is the liberty cap cent having a profile of  
Washington on one side and on the other a liberty cap in the centre,  
with rays of light emanating from it, and the words "Success to  
the United States".



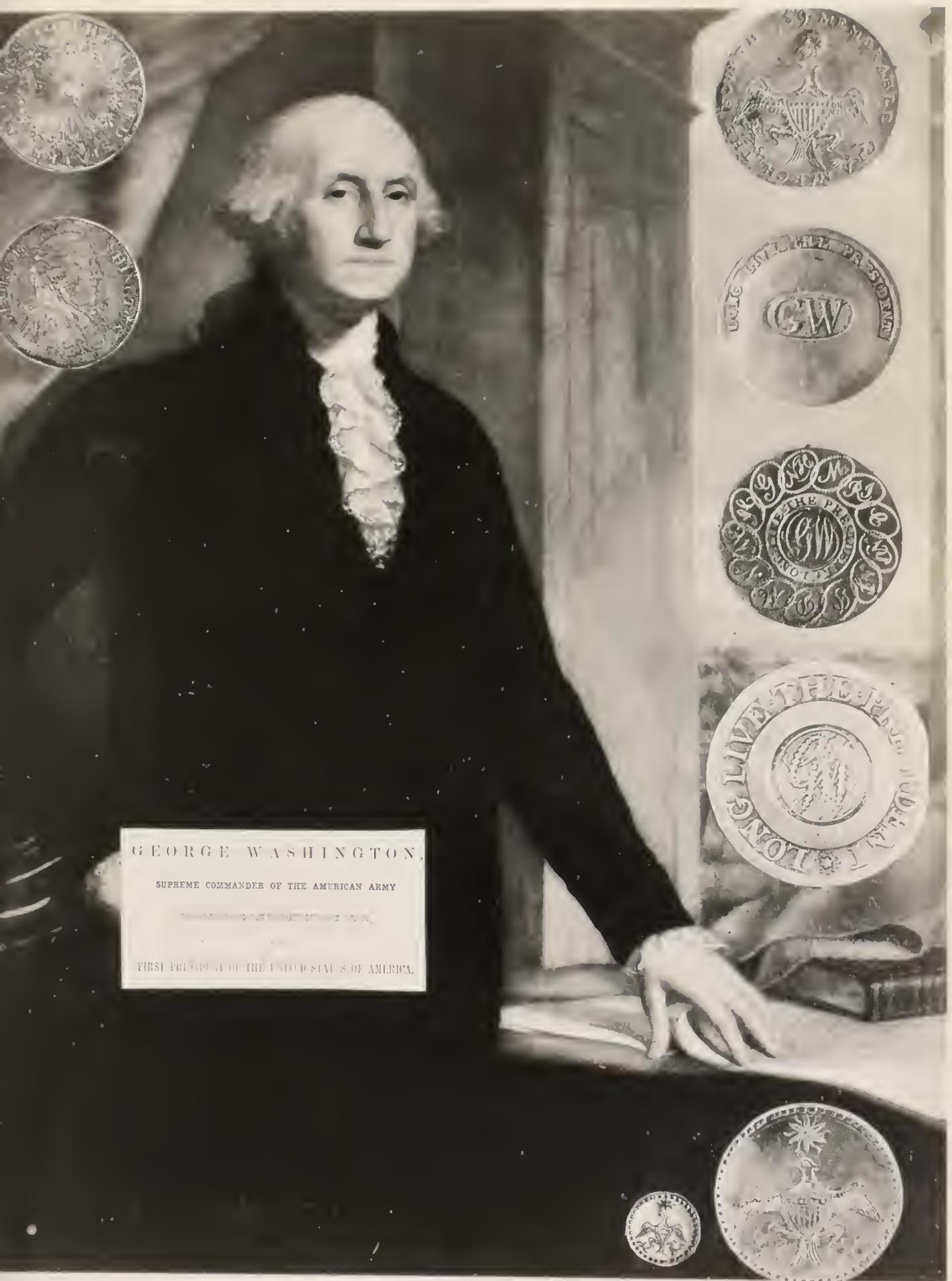
Plate



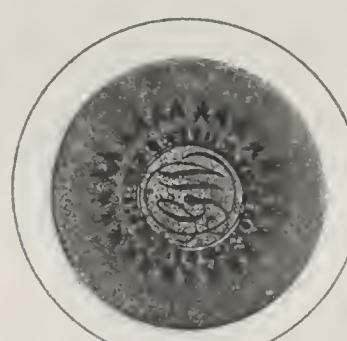
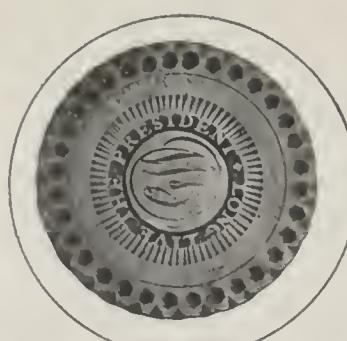
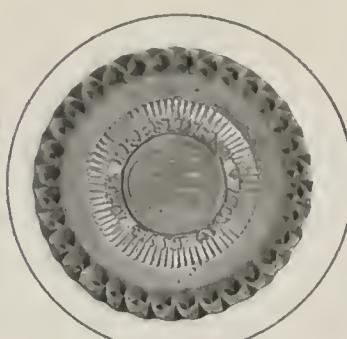
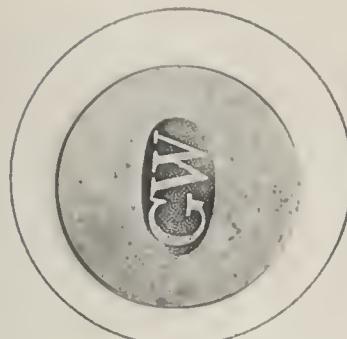
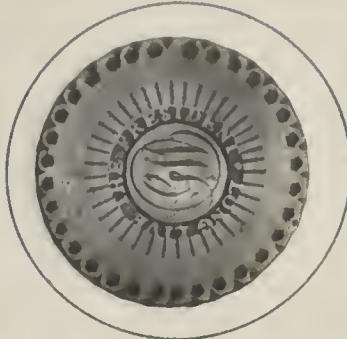




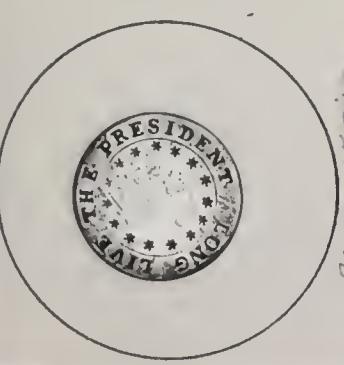
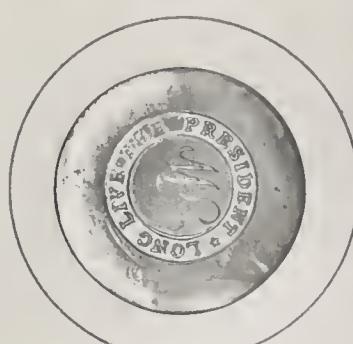
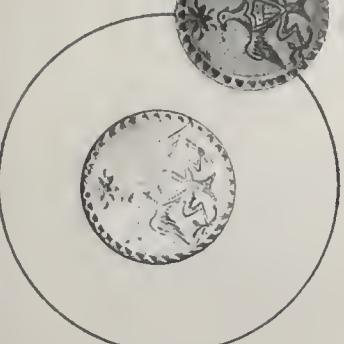
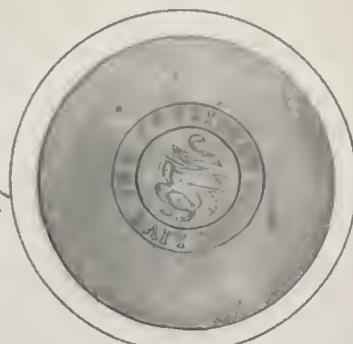
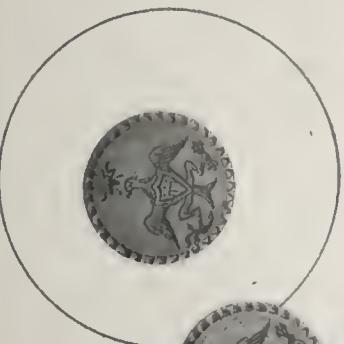
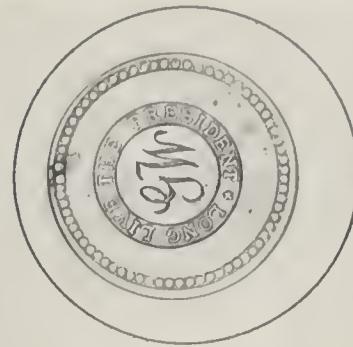
















175.



21x



176.



21



177.



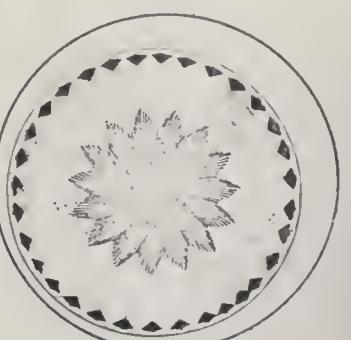
20



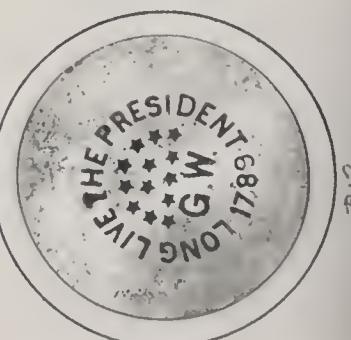
178.



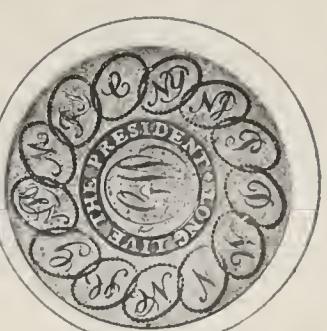
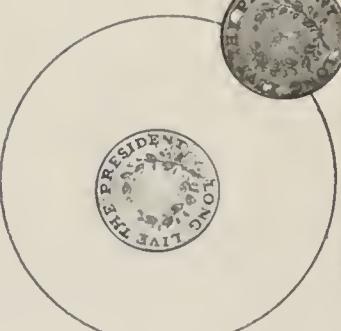
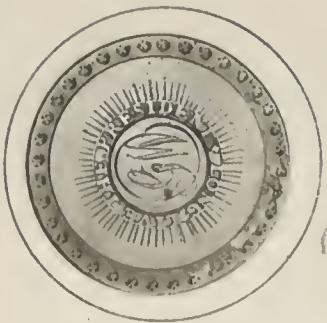
186



179.

R 2  
R 3R 2  
3



















American Numismatic Society



3 8060 00007 5556

KATEN  
8-23-71  
#923  
CN

